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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: P. W. Drew

Hannibal and St. Joseph Rail Road Co.

Office of Assistant Sup't and Sup't of Telegraph.

Hannibal, Mo. Sept 9th 1875

Col. R. S. Stevens
General Manager

Dear Sir:-

I suppose Messrs Courtright and Penfield keep you posted on the business of their respective departments but thinking you feel interested upon all matters that transpire during your absence I take the liberty of giving you a few items in regard to trains, &c. We have been hauling full trains all the time with an occasional extra but the tonnage is not quite as heavy as when you left.

Passenger trains have made good time, without accident, with two exceptions. On Sunday last as the Pay train was coming East, they killed a deaf and dumb boy who was walking on the track at Bevier and the same night No. 4 ran over and killed a drunken man lying on the track east of Chillicothe. No blame can be attached to the Co. and its employees in either case as every effort was made to prevent these casualties as soon as the parties were discovered.

Our Special between St. Joseph and Exposition Grounds is doing well. Will clear us five hundred dollars for certain and perhaps more.

We intend to run a special from Cameron to Kansas City next Tuesday to the Exposition. Jeff Davis speaks there that day and all Clay and Clinton Counties will turn out. Monday the Mo. River came up two feet and washed out our transfer track at Winthrop. After some correspondence with the Rock Island folks and on consultation with Mr. Lee I went there on our night train and found it would take two days to get transfer track in order, and so made a temporary arrangement with the Bridge Co. through Major Gunn to transfer cars on the basis of compensation that should be agreed upon when permanent arrangements are made. The Bridge Co. are trying to get a meeting of General Managers of Roads interested at an early day

¹ FROM: 1875 Book of Letters to R.S.S.

to perfect arrangements for doing the work. We crossed 40 cars of freight in one train in fifteen minutes. These cars had been detained two days on account of the high water. It was expressly understood that the arrangement was a temporary one and only made to give us present relief and only applied to freight.

Frank Bishop arrived this morning and I sent him out to take charge of the train.

I have over eight hundred tons of the old iron in the yard. Men are sorting it according to your order. I think there will be a thousand tons when it is all sent in.

The old M. V. & W. RWay Co. now called the St. Louis Keokuk and Northern have for nearly two years used three and three quarters miles of our track from West Quincy to M. V. Junction. They have never paid anything for it and are now nearly ready to resume running here again, having been "washed out" three months. I have called the attention of every Gen'l Superintendent we have had since they began to use the track to the fact that this Co. was furnishing that amount of track together with Favius Bridge for nothing, but do not think any attempt has been made to fix upon a rental. That Co. has changed hands so many times I do not know as the back rental could be collected. You know better than I about that. But it seems to me there ought to be some arrangement made now that will at least compensate for the depreciation of the H. & St. Jo property.

Mr. Lee is still gaining but I fear will not be out before next week. In the meantime you can rest assured we are all doing our "level best" to keep things in proper shape during your enforced absence which we all regret.

Yours Truly

P. W. Drew